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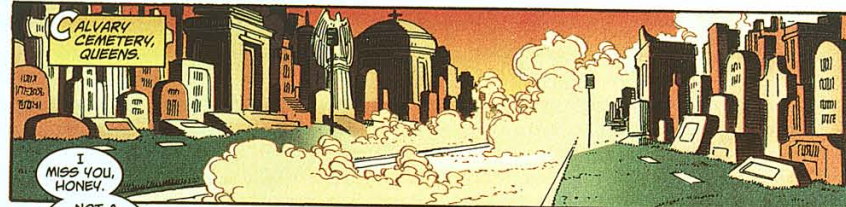
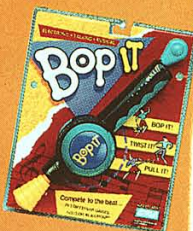
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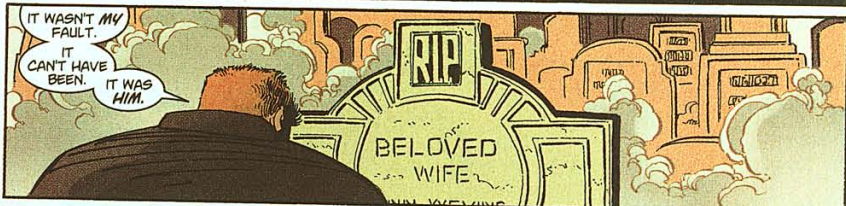
I MISS YOU, HONEY.

NOT A DAY GOES BY THAT I DON'T THINK ABOUT YOU.

WONDERING IF THERE WAS ANYTHING I COULD HAVE DONE TO... TO...



IT WASN'T MY FAULT. IT CAN'T HAVE BEEN. IT WAS HIM.



SPIDER-MAN!



HE'S GOING TO PAY.



I PROMISE YOU THAT, ANN.

AT A DEMONSTRATION ON RADIATION, HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY AN IRRADIATED SPIDER FROM WHOM HE GAINED THE ARACHNID'S INCREDIBLE ABILITIES. WHEN A BURGLAR KILLED HIS BELOVED UNCLE BEN, A GRIEF-STRIKEN PETER VOWED TO USE HIS GREAT POWERS IN THE SERVICE OF HIS FELLOW MAN, BECAUSE HE LEARNED AN INVALUABLE LESSON: WITH GREAT POWER MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY. STAN LEE PRESENTS:
THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN!

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SCOTT
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story and art
GREGORY
WRIGHT
colors
RS &
COMICRAFT's
TROY PETERI
letters

RALPH
MACCHIO
editor
BOB HARRAS
chief

WE
ARE GOING TO
HAVE OUR
VENGEANCE.

VENOM EATS
SPIDER-MAN'S
HEART
TONIGHT!

ER...
EXCUSE ME,
MR. BROCK,
BUT...

D
I
S
T
I
N
G
U
I
S
H
E
D

...I AM
AFRAID THAT
YOUR PERSONAL
VENGETTA IS GOING
TO HAVE TO TAKE A
BACK SEAT FOR
THE MOMENT.

WHAT?!

WHO'S
CRAZY ENOUGH
TO INTERRUPT
US?

YOU MIGHT SAY THAT
I'M A PARTY WHO IS
EXTREMELY INTERESTED
IN THE SPECIAL SYMBIOTIC
RELATIONSHIP WHICH
EXISTS BETWEEN YOU
AND YOUR ALIEN
COSTUME.

I WOULD
SIMPLY LOVE
THE OPPORTUNITY
TO EXAMINE IT A BIT
MORE CLOSELY.

OH... THAT IS GOING
TO HAPPEN! WE ARE
GOING TO GIVE YOU A
CHANCE TO LOOK
AT US REAL CLOSE!

EXCELLENT.

GENTLEMAN FROM

WHAT?

HOW?

ARRRGH!

NOOOO!
YOU... CAN'T --

OH, YES,
MR. BROCK...
APPARENTLY
I CAN.

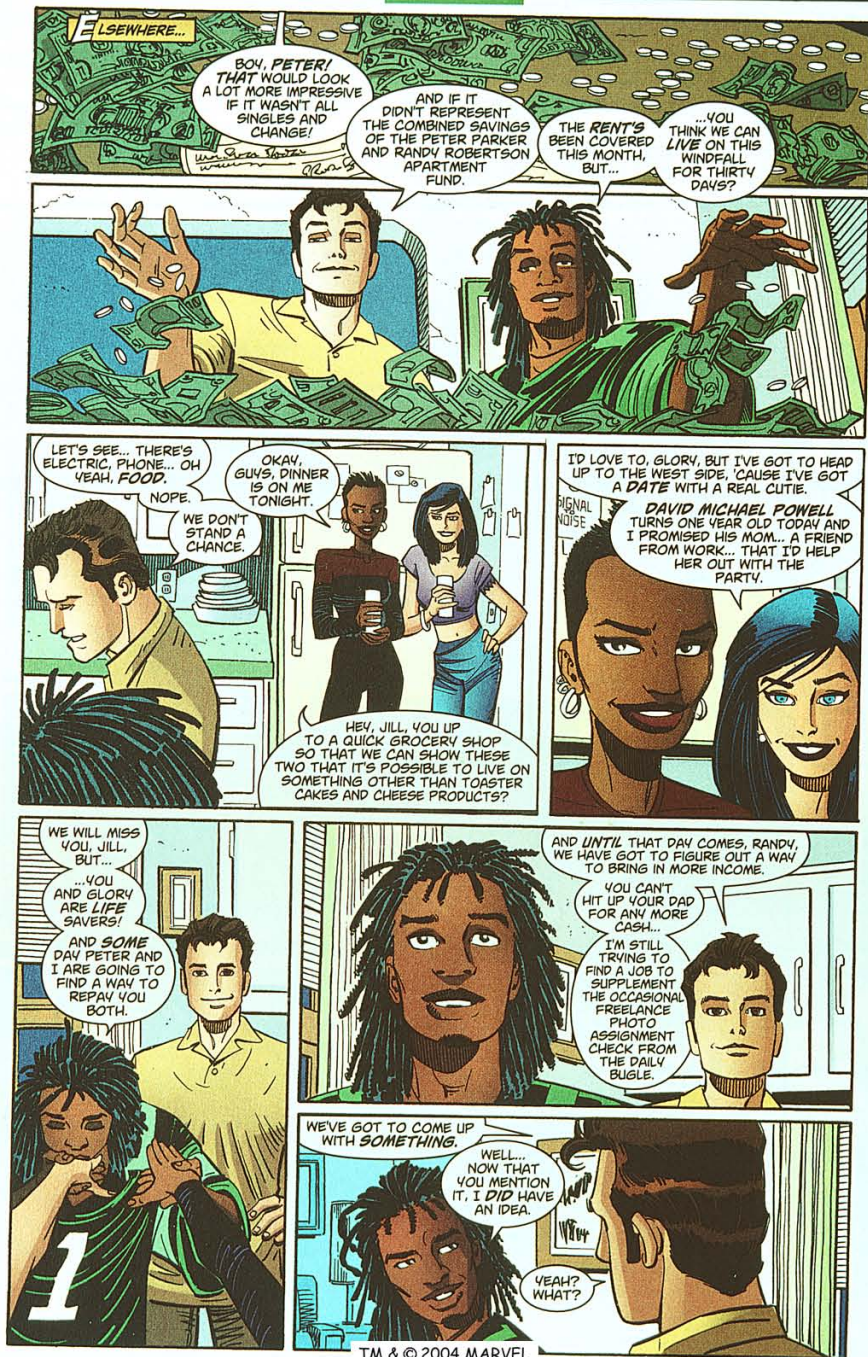
NOW
WHERE DO
YOU THINK
YOU'RE GOING,
MY ALIEN
FRIEND?

WITHOUT
YOU, BROCK IS
NOTHING MORE THAN
A SOCIOPATHIC,
WASHED-UP
JOURNALIST.

SHALL WE
BEGIN?

ARRRRRRRR

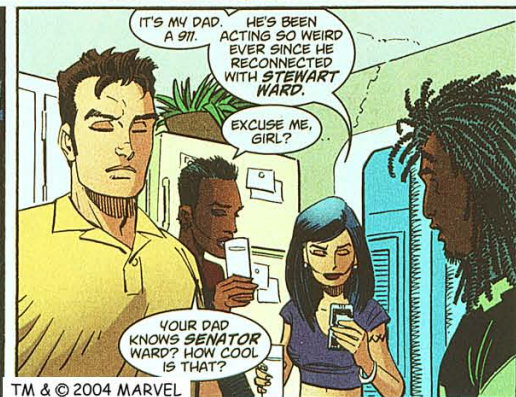
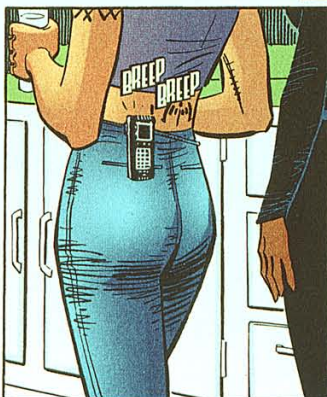
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PART ONE



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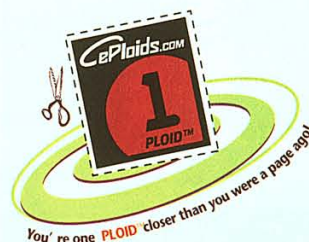
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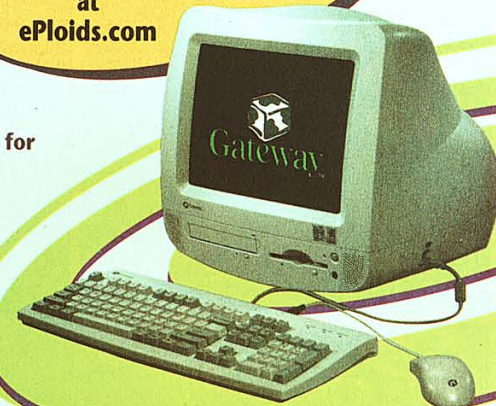
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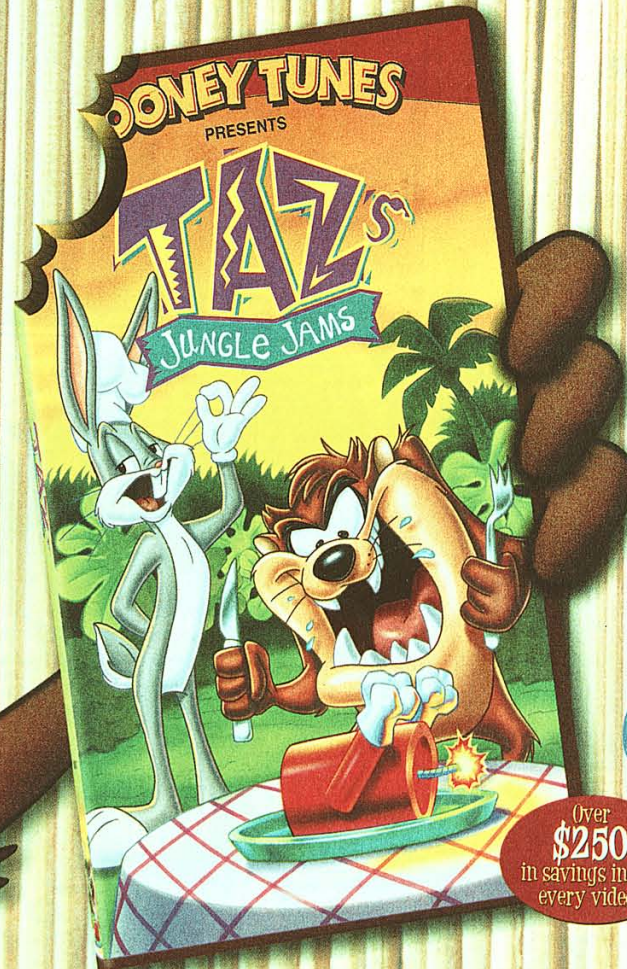
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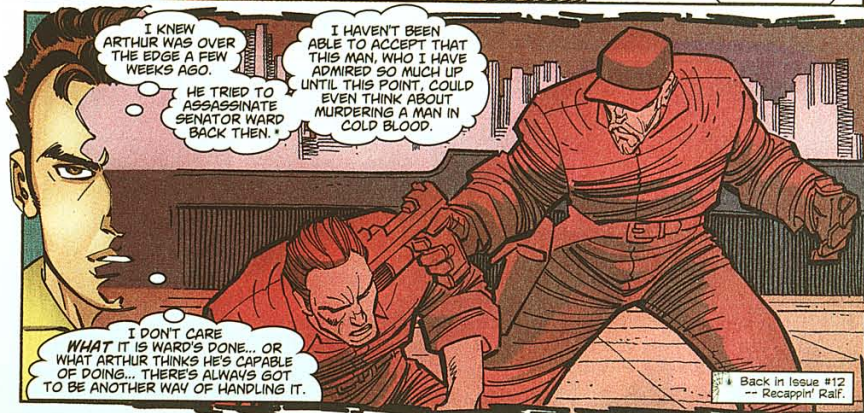
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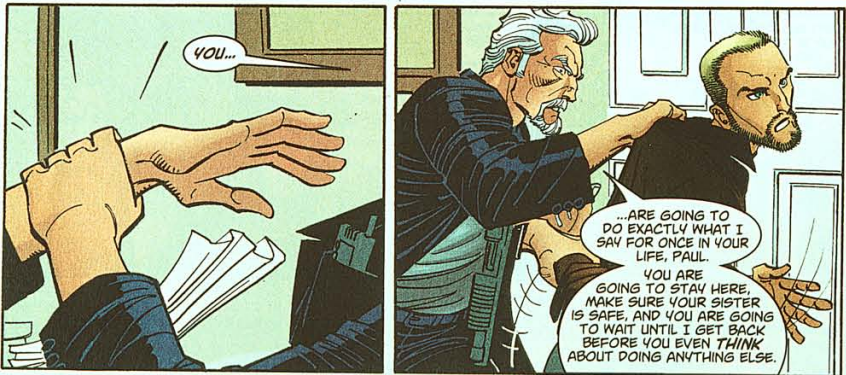
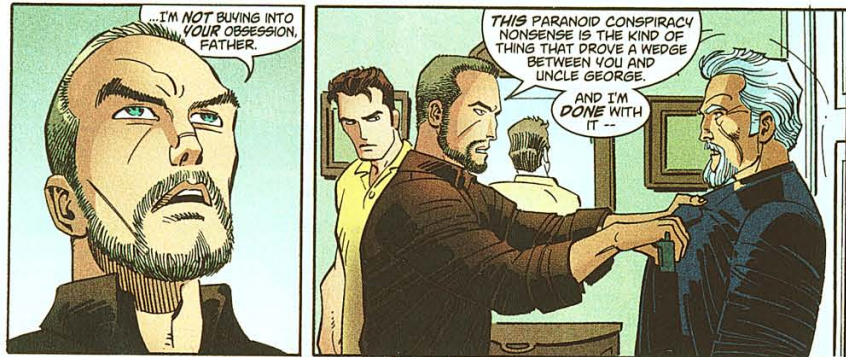
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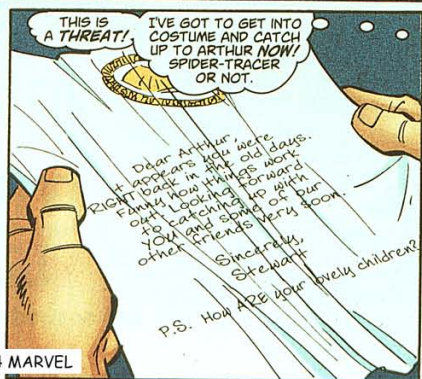
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The new multi-player water game.



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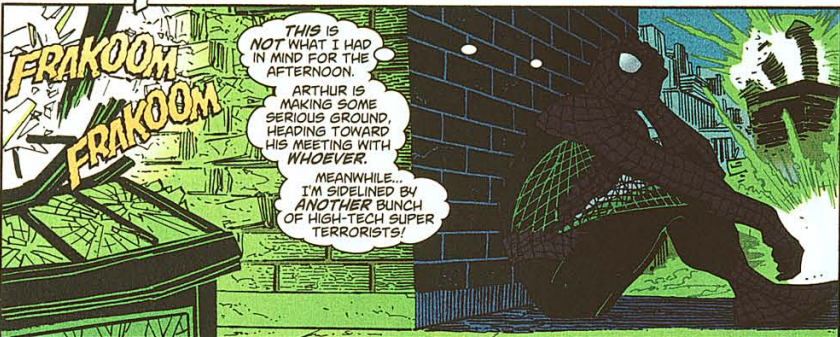
NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. HOW TO PLAY: Look inside specially-marked packages of 10 oz. Cheez-It® Original crackers. An instant-win game piece with a prize message will appear on the inside panel of the box. Winning messages read "Congratulations! You are a Prize Winner and describe the prize won. Non-winning messages read "Sorry. No Winner This Time. Please Try Again." The game begins on or about 6/05/00 and is scheduled to end 11/02/00 or when game-piece supply is exhausted, whichever occurs first. To obtain an Instant-win Game Piece and complete Official Rules without purchase, mail a self-addressed stamped envelope (VT & WA residents need not affix return postage) to: Cheez-It Spider-Man® Game Piece, P.O. Box 8419, Dept. CH, Prospect Hts., IL 60070. Requests must be postmarked by 11/02/00 and received by 11/09/00. Limit one request per outer envelope, one game-piece per request. Five (5) Grand Prize Winners' name and likeness will be entered into one monthly edition of a subscription to the Marvel comic of winner's choice. ARV: \$24.00 each. Odds of winning: 1:4,800. Total ARV of all prizes: \$23,945.00. If you have a winning game piece (subject to verification), hand-print certified mail (return receipt requested) to Cheez-It Spider-Man® Prize Claim, P.O. Box 8419, Dept. CH, Prospect Hts., IL 60070. You may wish to retain a photocopy for your records. Prize claims must be received by 11/15/01. Open to legal U.S. residents, except employees of Keebler Company, Promotion Administrators, Inc., their respective parents, affiliates, subsidiaries, agents, retailers, advertising and promotion agencies and the immediate families or household members of each. All federal, state and local laws and regulations apply. Void where prohibited. Game is subject to complete Official Rules. To obtain a copy, send a self-addressed stamped envelope (WA & VT residents may omit return postage) to Cheez-It Spider-Man Rules, P.O. Box CH, Prospect Hts., IL 60070. Spider-Man™ & © 2000 Marvel Characters, Inc. Rights Reserved.

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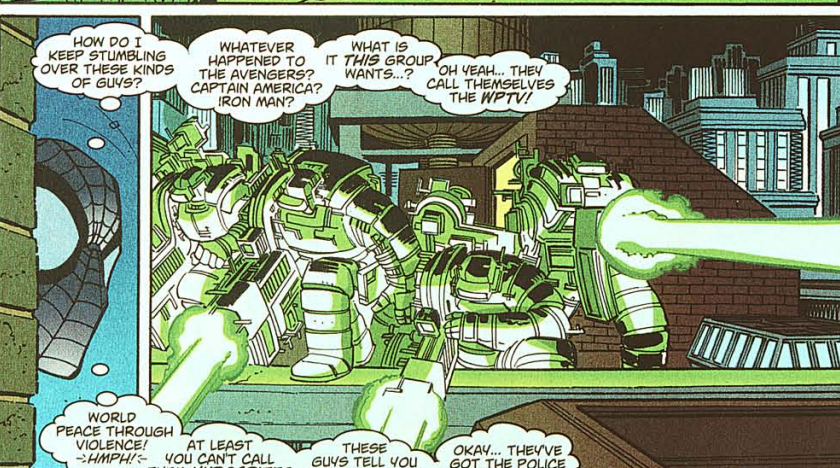
A SHORT TIME LATER...



THIS IS NOT WHAT I HAD IN MIND FOR THE AFTERNOON.

ARTHUR IS MAKING SOME SERIOUS GROUND, HEADING TOWARD HIS MEETING WITH WHOEVER.

MEANWHILE, I'M SIDELINED BY ANOTHER BUNCH OF HIGH-TECH SUPER TERRORISTS!

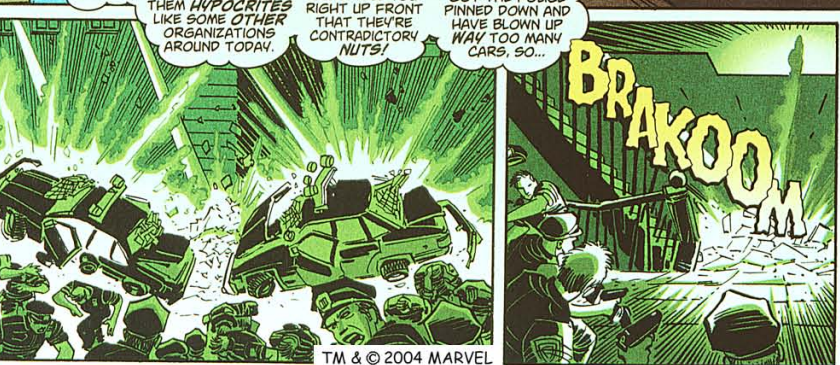


HOW DO I KEEP STUMBLING OVER THESE KINDS OF GUYS?

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO THE AVENGERS? CAPTAIN AMERICA? IRON MAN?

WHAT IS IT THIS GROUP WANTS...?

OH YEAH... THEY CALL THEMSELVES THE WPTV!



WORLD PEACE THROUGH VIOLENCE! ~WHAP!

AT LEAST YOU CAN'T CALL THEM HYPOCRITES LIKE SOME OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AROUND TODAY.

THESE GUYS TELL YOU RIGHT UP FRONT THAT THEY'RE CONTRADICTIONARY NUTS!

OKAY... THEY'VE GOT THE POLICE PINNED DOWN AND HAVE BLOWN UP WAY TOO MANY CARS, SO...

BRAKOOOM

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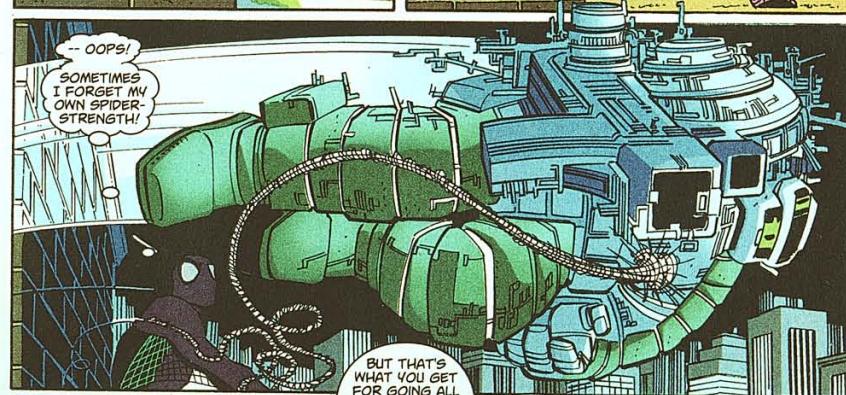
...IT'S TIME TO GET ALL SPIDERY ON THEM AND...

...LITERALLY WRAP THINGS UP!



LOOK AT THAT! I FIRST CAST AND I NAILED ME A BIG ONE! NOT EXACTLY WHAT I WAS AIMING FOR, BUT IT'LL DO.

JUST GOTTA REEL HIM IN SLOWLY AND --



-- OOPS! SOMETIMES I FORGET MY OWN SPIDER-STRENGTH!



KTASH

VEEOW!

THAT'S HURTING!



BUT THAT'S WHAT YOU GET FOR GOING ALL "I'M A SUPER-VILLAIN AND I'VE GOTTA BLOW EVERYTHING UP!"

SO MAYBE I'D BETTER END THIS ALL QUICK-LIKE.

STEADY. TAKE AIM. ...FIRE!



NOW THIS SHOULD DO IT!

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3. Prize & approximate retail value (ARV): Grand Prize (ARV \$2,500): Performance by *NSYNC for Winner's school, plus a check for music equipment delivered by *NSYNC. \$2,500 will be awarded in the form of a check for the school to purchase music equipment. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. Many will enter; one will win. If Grand Prize Winner is not available on the concert date and time specified by Sponsor, an alternate Winner will be selected from among all remaining eligible entries. Grand Prize will be awarded via a random drawing to be conducted on or about 1/15/01 from all eligible entries received. Grand Prize Winner and his/her parent/legal guardian will be required to execute and return an Affidavit of Eligibility and a Publicity/Liability Release within 14 days of attempted notification. Non-compliance may result in disqualification and selection of alternate Winner. Grand Prize concert planned to occur before April 30, 2001. Concert date and time will be selected by Sponsors, given artists' availability and other restrictions determined by Sponsor. Sponsor reserves the right to substitute a different artist at its sole discretion. Prize is not transferable or assignable. In the event that the Grand Prize Winner's school is deemed an unsuitable performance venue or if the Winner's school refuses to accept prize, sponsor reserves the right to choose an alternate performance location close to the Winner's home. All taxes and any other expenses not specified above are the sole responsibility of the Winner.

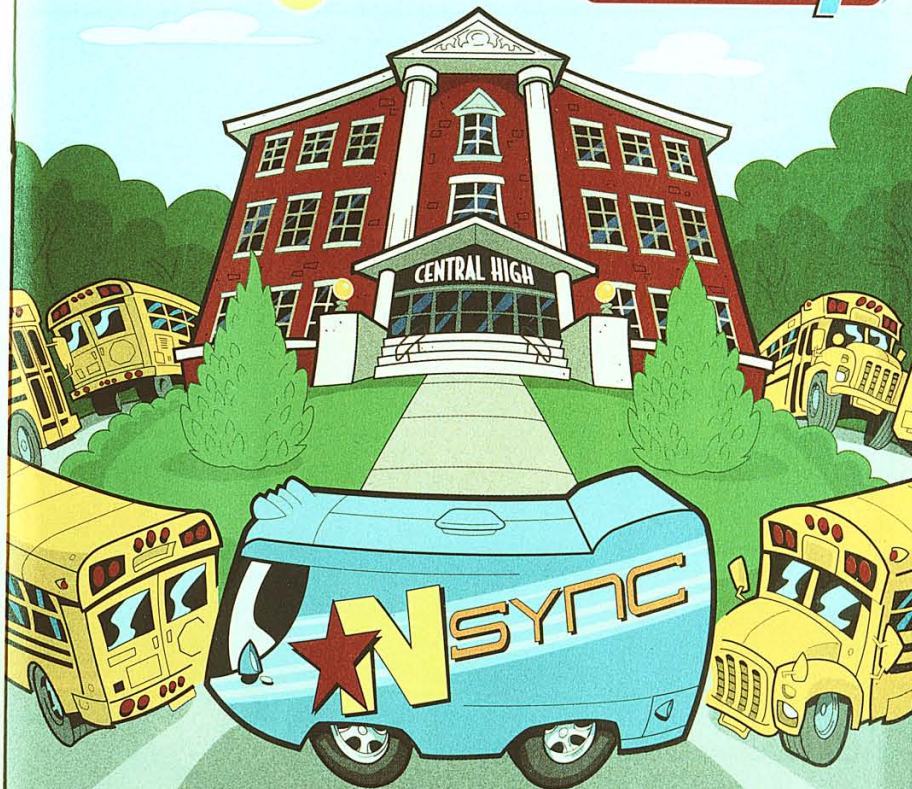
4. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. Grand Prize will be awarded. Winner will be notified by mail within 4-6 weeks of drawing. Taxes on prizes are sole responsibility of Winner. Random drawing and notification are under supervision of Carlson Draddy & Associates, an independent judging organization whose decisions are final and binding in all respects.

5. By participating in this Sweepstakes, entrants agree to be bound by these Official Rules and the decisions of the judges, which are final and binding in all respects. By acceptance of Prize, Winner consents to Sponsor's use of his/her name and/or likeness and biographical information for commercial purposes without additional notification or compensation, except where prohibited. Sponsor and its agencies not responsible for any losses due to lost, late, postage-due, or misdirected mail or entries. By accepting prize, Winner agrees to release, discharge and hold harmless Sponsor and Promotion Agency, their parent companies, subsidiaries, affiliates, employees, suppliers, and agents from any and all liability for any loss, harm, damages, cost or expense, including without limitation personal injury and/or death arising out of participation in this Sweepstakes or the acceptance, use or misuse of the Prize.

6. For the name of the Grand Prize Winner, available after 4/1/01, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Nabisco/LifeSavers Winner, P.O. Box 4761, Young America, MN 55558-4761, to be received by 6/1/01.

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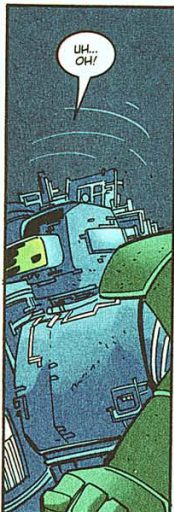
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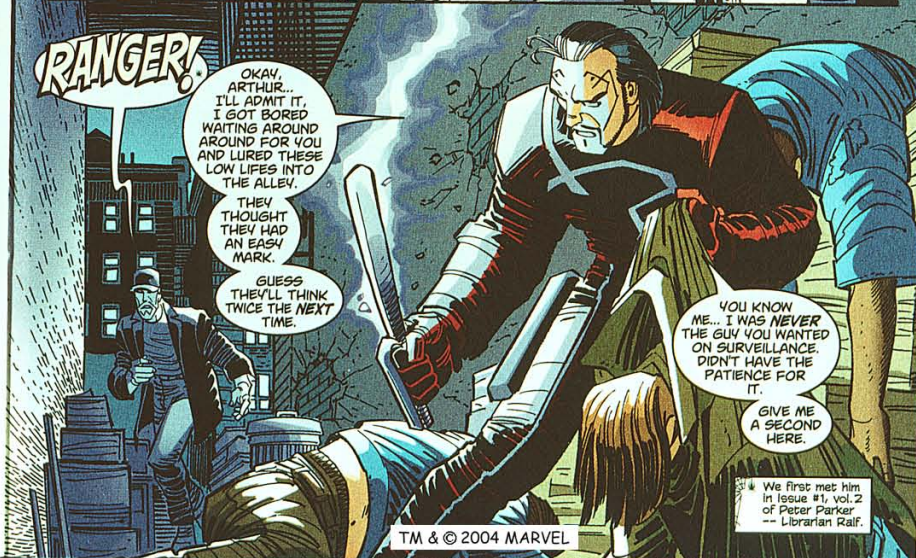
bring *NSYNC to your school! (See opposite page for official rules)



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IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME, MY FRIEND.

WARD... YOU KNOW WHO HE IS... YOU KNOW WHAT HE'LL DO.

YOU KNOW I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET HIM EVER SINCE I CONFIRMED HE WAS OUR OLD "FRIEND." I THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD.



WE BOTH DID. BUT HE'S NOT. AND HE'S MORE DANGEROUS NOW THAN HE EVER WAS.

THE PROJECT. EVERYONE THOUGHT I WAS CRAZY FOR BEING SO WORRIED ABOUT IT, BUT IT'S HAPPENING.

AND NOW HE'S THREATENING MY KIDS... THREATENING US ALL.



SO IT'S UP TO US... AGAIN. TAKE MY WORD FOR IT... IT'S HARD TO GET CLOSE TO HIM, THOUGH.

AND HE'S BEEN SMART ENOUGH TO KEEP GOING TO GUYS LIKE DR. OCTOPUS, THE WIZARD AND THE SANDMAN FOR HELP.



WHAT'S THIS?

A TRACER OF SOME SORT.

SHORT TIME LATER AND SOME DISTANCE AWAY...

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT... THE SPIDER-TRACER SIGNAL JUST STOPPED.

I HOPE IT MEANS ARTHUR FOUND IT AND THAT SOMETHING DIDN'T HAPPEN TO HIM.

REGARDLESS, NOW I HAVE NO IDEA OF HOW TO FIND HIM. INSTEAD OF JUST WASTING ENERGY...

...I'M JUST GOING TO HAVE TO WAIT, AND REMEMBER ARTHUR'S A VERY CAPABLE MAN.



MEANWHILE...

...I'M BEAT!



YOU'RE SLIPPING, ARTHUR. IN THE OLD DAYS YOU NEVER WOULD HAVE LET SOMETHING LIKE THIS GET BY YOU.

A SPIDER... HOW?



DON'T WORRY... I'LL TAKE CARE OF IT. I HAVE A FEELING IT MIGHT COME IN HANDY.



I'VE BEEN FEELING THIS WAY A LOT LATELY. CAN HARDLY KEEP MY EYES OPEN.

I'M GETTING MORE SLEEP THAN USUAL, SO I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT IS. GOTTA TRY AND SHAKE IT.



I JUST HAVE A FEELING I'M GOING TO HAVE TO BE ON THE TOP OF MY GAME IN WHATEVER GOES DOWN BETWEEN ARTHUR AND WARD. IT COULD BE BAD.



MAYBE I SHOULD JUST CONFRONT ARTHUR DIRECTLY.



STOP PLAYING GAMES.



MAKE HIM TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON.



IN THE MORNING.



GOT TO GET SOME... SLEEP.

ZZZZZZ



TWO AND A HALF HOURS LATER...

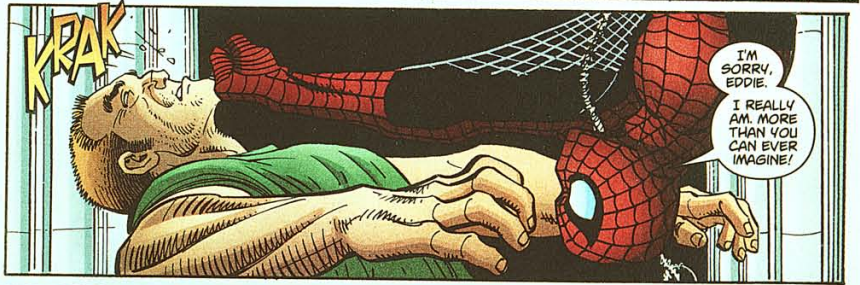
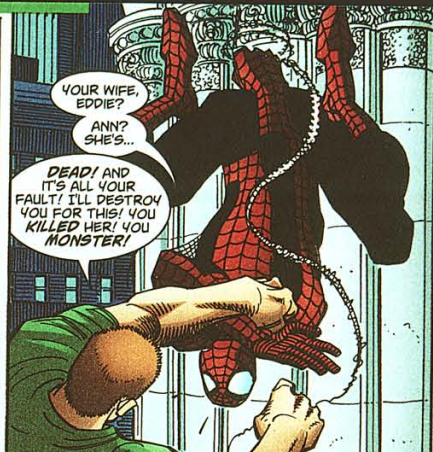
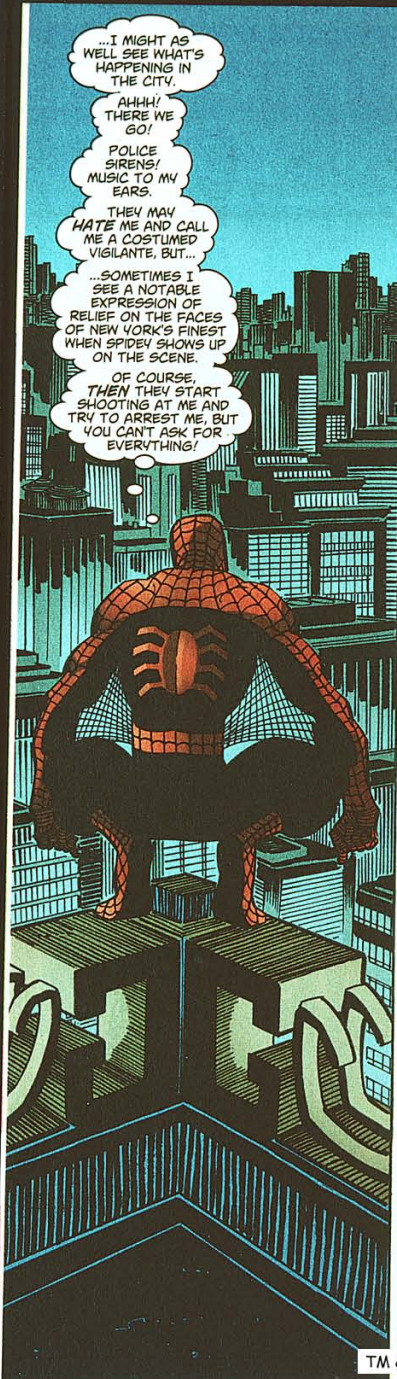
UNCLE BEN... NO!



IT WAS JUST A DREAM. JUST A DREAM.

AND I DON'T FEEL ANY LESS TIRED THAN WHEN I WENT TO SLEEP.

BUT NOW THAT I'M AWAKE...



NICKELODEON

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September 11-15, 4-5pm*
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AT THAT MOMENT...

COME NOW...

...IS BEING SEPARATED FROM BROCK REALLY SO PAINFUL?

THE MAN IS A BUFFOON. A SOCIOPATHIC THUG.

I FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT THE RELATIONSHIP YOU SHARED WITH HIM WAS TRULY SYMBIOTIC.

I, ON THE OTHER HAND AM A UNITED STATES SENATOR. I AM REVERED BY MANY.

MY NOD CAN CRUSH OR IMPEDE VITAL LEGISLATION. AND I LOVE THAT POWER. BUT THAT PALES BESIDE WHAT I WILL DO NOW!

YOU WILL LEARN AS MUCH FROM ME AS I HOPE TO LEARN FROM YOU.

IT IS THE UNIQUE UNION WHICH YOU SHARE WITH YOUR HOST WHICH IS OF PRIMARY INTEREST TO ME.

YOU SEE... I AM CURRENTLY SHARING MY BODY WITH AN ALIEN LIFE FORM.

NOT ONE NEARLY AS SOPHISTICATED AS YOUR OWN... MORE OF A VIRUS ACTUALLY.

BUT STILL, I THINK THERE ARE THINGS YOU CAN TEACH US.

SHALL WE BEGIN?



THE SPIDER-MAN WEB

Dear Spider's Web,

I must say that the in-continuity Spider-books have been improving tremendously since the second year of Volume II began. There are still all sorts of dangling plot threads from the first year and from Volume I, but some of those are beginning to be dealt with now, and we're seeing some new directions in the book.

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #18 was a joy to look at, pairing one of my fave pencils with one of the definitive artists for my favorite character handling the inks. It was a beautiful book, all around... if a little uneven. On some pages the linework looked like John Byrne and on others (particularly those focusing on Liz Osborn) it looked like vintage John Romita, Sr. Still, when you have two styles of that caliber, I can't find much to complain about. Aside from the lines, I'm curious as to whether John tried to give this book a Romita "flavor" in his layouts. The scene with Liz pondering the history of the Goblin in her limo and the fight between Spidey and the Green one around the Roosevelt Island tram, in particular, looked like Romita solo pages.

Hey, it looks like something may actually be done with Randy Robertson! I was sure his brief appearance in the last issue of PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN was nothing more than a throwaway. Thanks for surprising me. I fondly remember Peter David's stories revolving around Randy and his wife, and I was disappointed to see the relationship dissolved for what I assumed was no good reason. I hope we continue seeing more of Randy in the future, since he's definitely a supporting character who could stand some fleshing out.

I'm relatively happy with the return of the Green Goblin, but I don't want to get too worked up over it. I doubt we'll get any answers as to his identity in next week's issue of PPSM. And (maybe it's the cynic in me, but it's a cynic that's been well-fed by a year-and-a-half of stories going *Nowhere!*) even doubt the Spider-office knows who this new guy's supposed to be. I hope I eat my words when I pick up the next part of this story. If I do, I'm betting the new Goblin is Phil Urich, somehow stuck in the costume after being used as Osborn's pawn in the "Goblins at the Gate" storyline prior to the reboot.

Russ Anderson
Baltimore, MD

Thanks for writing, Russ.

We can't say for certain if John laid those pages out in pure Romita fashion. We can confirm that it was Mr. Byrne's idea to have the living legend himself ink his final issue, so maybe he was somehow subconsciously influenced into drawing in JR Sr.'s style. Who can say for sure? Certainly not the latest Green Goblin, who was definitely not Phil Urich. Sorry!

Dear Spider's Web,

Like many other Spidey fans, I was excited to hear that the John Romita, Sr. was inking issue #18. I would prefer to see him penciling, but inking is the second best thing.

I don't consider myself an expert in the inking field. While some people can analyze it to death, I can hardly notice an inker's work: it's just the pencils for me. But in this issue, JR Sr.'s style was very noticeable in the inks. It made the artwork look like an awesome amalgamation of John Byrne's and JR Sr.'s styles. This is definitely the best-looking issue of the relaunch and I hope it won't be too long before we see JR Sr. grace the pages of a Spider-Man title once more.

People who haven't picked up the ESSENTIAL SPIDER-MAN volumes don't know the great JR Sr. artwork they're missing! When are we going to see a fourth volume?

Michael Bregman
Gan-Yavne, ISRAEL

Now that's what we like to see in a letter: a nice easy job that gives us a chance for a cheap plug. Yes, Virginia (err...Michael), there will be a fourth volume of THE ESSENTIAL SPIDER-MAN, and it won't be long in the coming January is the current on sale date for this little gem, and as Michael here implies, it's a must-have for any and all Spidey fans—just like the preceding three volumes. If you don't have 'em yet, what are you waiting for? Rait to become competent?

Dear Spider's Web,

It's probably a false hope to believe Mary Jane to be dead. Characters "die" and return so frequently—particularly in Spidey continuity—that death has little impact or credibility now. You could kill two birds with one stone if you didn't resurrect her: firstly, it would restore some believability in death scenes and secondly, it would finally end an implausible relationship.

Why do I say that? Pete and MJ are chalk and cheese. There's an old adage that opposites attract, though experience would incline one to think that that's untrue. There's always been something quaintly old-fashioned about Peter Parker. Maybe it comes from being raised by an aunt and uncle obviously separated by two generations. He dresses very conservatively, doesn't socialize much or drink; let's face it, he's a bit of a square. That isn't really a criticism. So is Captain America, perhaps the only complete hero in the Marvel Universe. Still, Pete's an introverted guy, the type who settles down early. The Spider-Man persona allows him to express his latent extrovert side, which is maybe just as well for his psychological health, as he doesn't exactly let his hair down much as Peter Parker. Even if he had inherited millions, could you see mild-mannered Pete as a playboy like Tony Stark? Not in a million years.

Anyway, this brief analysis just throws up how dissimilar he is from Mary Jane. Writers have labored to overcome the incarnations of MJ as airhead, party animal, non-committal partner (it was hard not to feel sorry for poor Harry; as if he didn't have enough problems with an abusive father, he had to fall in love with someone who avoided commitment), soap opera actress and supermodel (!), none of which contrast well with studious and soft-spoken Peter Parker. She's been loyal and was there for Peter when Gwen died, but she's a poor replacement.

Gwen Stacy was always better suited, in personality, background and intelligence. She also grew up with a father who was a cop, so she understands The Life, the worry of wondering if your father/husband will walk back through the door at the end of the day (or night). Stan "The Man" Lee himself has said that when he created Gwen, she just seemed so perfect for Peter that he assumed they'd get married some day. And they should have. Children would have quickly followed. Peter would be a wonderful father, doubly so since he feels the sting of not knowing his own parents. Sadly, it never happened.

Okay, maybe it's a bit harsh to blow Mary Jane to smithereens. It would just be appreciated if you'd stop trying to convince us that they make a great couple when psychological reality says they can't. Divorce would suit me fine, if for no other reason than MJ is a Stan Lee creation. After nearly 30 years, I still can't accept that these two make a plausible couple and, in fact, I'm surprised at how little I care about her. I still miss Gwen and maybe I resent MJ trying to replace her. MJ is much more like Flash Thompson: physically attractive, intelligent

but certainly not exceptionally so, non-academic, loud, outgoing, cocky, fond of attention and crowds. All the characteristics that would repel a quiet, socially awkward and insecure young man like Peter Parker. Robert Menzies
Barnhead, Glasgow
SCOTLAND

Thanks for your well-thought-out analysis, Robert. Now, better get a helmet, because in the letters pages to come, we have a feeling you're about to become the target of some stinging responses.

As far as our own response, we'll have to politely disagree. While you make some valid points, we're not sure that MJ and Peter are as "opposite" as you seem to think. You may not believe that opposites truly attract, but what about people with differing characteristics complementing each other and forcing each other to grow?

Also, we can't help but feel that your characterization of a meek and shy Peter seems more rooted in the early years of this character, and doesn't represent the more confident Peter of recent years.

Dear Spider's Web,

Just thought I'd share some thoughts on the SPIDER-MAN 2000 Annual.

I am glad that Howard Mackie was tabbed to write it instead of another writer not as familiar with the current state of the Spider-books. Howard's story was okay, though not as action-packed as we've come to expect from Marvel's Annuals.

It was with great relief to discover that Harry Osborn was only a computer hologram, hopefully never to be seen again. After reading in an ad for this issue that he was coming back, I was very nervous about it. Thanks for not doing something that would have really hurt the Spider-titles.

Is Norman back? Lord, I hope so. And with any luck he's brought the new Green Goblin and Jack O'Lantern with him, so we can clear up some long-dangling plotlines. Thanks for a good book.

Terence Connors PMM
KingTheCon@aol.com

You're welcome, Terence, but think nothing of it. That's what we get paid for!

Well, you know by now that Norman is indeed back, and at least one of your two dangling plots has been resolved. And even better, you can look forward to the other being tied up as well! None other than Two-Fisted Tom DeFalco will be tackling the identity of Mad Jack in a limited series scheduled for later this year. Look for it!

NEXT ISSUE:

NOT ONLY DOES THIS ISSUE TIE INTO MAXIMUM SECURITY, THE MEGA-MARVEL CROSSOVER EVENT OF THE YEAR, NOT ONLY DOES SPIDEY FACE OFF AGAINST THE HIDEOUS ALIEN RACE THE 2ND, BUT FINALLY, THE SECRET CONNECTION BETWEEN SENATOR WARD, ARTHUR STACY AND THE RANGER IS REVEALED! DON'T BELIEVE US? FIND OUT FOR YOURSELF IN FOUR SHORT WEEKS, WHEN WE'LL ALSO REVEAL THE SECRET CONNECTION BETWEEN HOWARD MACKIE, JOHN ROMITA JR. AND SCOTT HANNA. THIS SECRET REVEALED, UNREVEALED, HOW RALF KEEPS HIS JOB!

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RALPH MACCHIO
EDITOR

BOB HARRAS
CHIEF



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1 NEW STUDENT



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